

Q: (7) According to the general practice Zakah is paid during Ramadan. The question is whether it is necessary to pay Zakah in Ramadan.

A: Zakah should always be calculated on the basis of the lunar calendar. Every person has, his own Zakah valuation date which he must know. It is the date on which he, for the first time, acquired the ownership of the nisab (minimum quantum) of Zakah, i.e. the value of 613.35 grams of silver.

For example, you have acquired the ownership of 613.35 grams of silver for the first time on the first of 1Vfuharram. The first of Muharram is your valuation date for the purpose of Zakah. You should calculate the value of your zakatable assets owned by you on that date every year. The amount spent before that date need not be included in the zakatable assets. Only the balance remaining with you on the valuation date is subject to Zakah.

If you do not remember the exact date on which you became the owner of the nisab for the first time, you can estimate the valuation date.

Therefore, the month of Ramadan is not the valuation month for everybody, the valuation date differs from person to person.

However, once the amount of Zakah is calculated on the basis of correct valuation date, it may be paid any time after the valuation date. But the payment should not be delayed unnecessarily.

Contemporary fatawaa